52

Ans.d - March 9th - Received the box safely

Baltimore, feb.y 18, 1841.

LIBRARY
NEW YORK
BOTANICAL
GARDEN.

My dear Sir,

I am very sorry of having been detained in Washington few days more than I had expected. Your kind letter of the 12th inst. is in hands, and I haste to forward the box, and answer you. I am so much harrassed with occupation in reference of my great Map and other subjects connected with it, that I had no time yet to examine the plants since the box has arrived from the West. All what I could do was to satisfy myself that all in it appears to be in good order and fine state of Preservation. Nor had I any time to take a copy of the numbers as labeled in reference of localities and date of gathering. But, it is with full confidence and trust that I send the whole to you, with the earnest request to make it as good as possible for the benefit of science, should it prove to be of some important accession to your very valuable Flora &c. Keep the collection as long as you may want it; I am not pressed to get it back, as I have yet five or six months hard work, before being allowed to make myself busy about that accessory part of my Report. But, you will confere upon me a great favor, if you can give me a Catalogue of the collection, showing the classic name, locality, date of gathering of the plant corresponding to the number written on each label. My Assistant, Mr. Ch.s A. Geyer, as you will see it, has done his best; But he will be as greatfull

Given by A. M. VAIL. MAR 4 - 1907 from the J. J. Crooke Collection

as I am myself for any kind of assistance you would bestow
upon us. You will readily understand the necessity under which
I am of asking such a favor from you: having to describe the
regions I explored it is of the utmost importance that I should
concord or agree with you as to the proper or classic names of
the plants that I might feel obliged to mention in the text of
the report, &c. But, once more, take time, I am not pressed.
I hope, Gentlemen, to meet with you before long, relying
neither on the pleasure of receiving your visit in Baltimore
where I am to stay for six weeks more, or on my exertion
to visit you as soon as possible. Please drop a line to
let me know that the <u>Box</u> has safely come to your hands.

Your's respectfully

J. N. Nicollet

Dr. J. Torrey and Dr. A. Gray.

[Nicollet] undated

Memorandum for Dr. J. Torrey

The Country in which the collection of plants were made lies between the Mississippi and the Missouri. Few lines will give an idea of its general ~~phi~~ feature and physical caracter.

Two extensive regions: 1°. Coteau des Prairies and its prolongation between Red River of the north and Shayen-oju River emptying into it. Prairies throughout, interspersed with Wood an Lakes. Soil: Sand, gravel, Clay in small proportion and scattered erratic blocks. Elevation above the sea, from 1000 feet to 2000. In latitude, between 43° and 48° north.

2°. Extensive basin of Rivière-Jaques (or James R.), or Tchansansan River of the Sioux; is Vaste Prairie, between the Coteau des Prairies and the Coteau du Missouri, from 60 to 80 miles West of the former. Very little wood; it is rather a Steppe. Level above the sea from 1200 to 1400 feet, or nearly 600 feet lower than the two Coteaux between which this Prairie lies. The ~~Northern part~~ North eastern part is salt

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE HERBARIUM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

[Nicollet]

Region, including the great salt lake called
Mini Wakan, or Devil's Lake, and all ~~the~~
the head waters of the rivers emptying into ~~the~~
red river of the north on the ~~west~~ side.
Sandy soil all over. Timber only along Rivière
Jacques and its tributaries.

There are two Shayen-Rivers. (this is the
spelling adopted in ~~the~~ my map which will be published
at the end of this month), one empties into ~~the~~
red river of the north and its correct name is
Shayen-oju Riv. the other empties into the
Missouri a little below 45° degrees of latitude.
few plants must have been collected on this
last, and if any, it can be but about the
latter part of June 1839.

These regions will be fully described in the
report which is to accompany or illustrate the map.

What Mr. Geyer denominates Slate Hills, naked hills,
arid hills argillaceous hills, Upper Missouri, belong to the
Cretaceous formation, the constituants of which
are principaly Calcareous marl, and plastic
Clay.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

I have corrected the names of localities, and very sorry I am that he has not been more particular about describing or at least mentioning the true places where plants were collected.

[From Mr Nicollet

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

The collection was not sufficiently extensive to justify any ~~tabular~~ ~~view~~ ~~of~~ general conclusions as to the distribution of ~~its~~ principal families of plants in the region explored by Mr Nicollet. The catalogue will be valuable, however as a contribution to the geography of American plants, as well as for the new species which it adds to our Flora

[From John Torrey –
see catalogue
note by
Mulford Martin]

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.